



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
May 26, 2015

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on these items can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ and fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/.

NONGAME CHECK-OFF WORKPLAN

This lays out the work plan for the nongame wildlife program's use of monies accrued through Montana's nongame tax check-off.

2015 HB 454 HUNTING ACCESS AGREEMENTS

An annual renewal of a long-standing agreement with the Swanz family that in return for allowing access to elk hunters, Mr. Swanz, or a family member, would receive one 411-21 either-sex elk permit. In turn, FWP would issue four additional 411-21 permits from the already randomized list of unsuccessful applicants for that permit. Successful applicants could only hunt on the Swanz deeded property.

2015 FALL UPLAND GAME BIRD QUOTAS AND LIMITS

Increase the annual bag limit for wild turkeys for the spring and fall seasons combined to 3, but no more than 2 could be taken during either the spring or fall. For anyone taking 3 turkeys during the year, at least one has to be taken in Region 1. Any hunter taking a second turkey in the fall and hunting in Region 1 must take a hen turkey.

- Increase fall wild turkey permits in HD 395 (Beaverhead, Silver Bow, and Jefferson counties, and Madison County west of the Madison River) from 20 general and 2 youth-only to 50 general and 10 youth-only.

2015 FURBEARER HARVEST QUOTAS

- A reduction in bobcat quotas in Regions 4, 5, and 6.
- A proposal that people harvesting bobcats be required to turn in the lower jaw for aging.
- A proposal that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the regulation changes outlined in the lynx lawsuit settlement

2015 WOLF REGULATIONS & LANDOWNER TAKE QUOTA

FWP proposes no change to the 2014-2015 Wolf Regulations and Landowner Take quota.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE AND FINAL ADOPTION MEETINGS

The public comment period on all proposed items will extend through **5 p.m., Monday, June 29**. Final adoption for all items will occur at the July 9th Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, please visit our website's Hunting home page at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ and the Fish & Wildlife homepage at fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/ under "Opportunity for Public Comment". Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

- ✓ Nongame Check-Off Workplan
fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2015/nongameCheckoffWorkplan.html
- ✓ HB 454 Hunting Access Agreements
fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/2015HB454HuntingAccessAgreements.html
- ✓ 2015 Fall Upland Game Bird Quotas And Limits:
fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/2015fallUgbQuotasLimits.html
- ✓ 2015 Furbearer Harvest Quotas:
fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/2015furbearerRegs.html
- ✓ 2015 Wolf Regulations & Landowner Take Quota:
fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/2015-2016wolfRegsAndLandownerTake.html